Cruise Line International Association – Alaska

Discharge of Effluents in Alaska Waters by Cruise Vessel Operations

Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP)
For

Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) Testing

February 2025

Effective: April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2028

February 2025 Revision 6

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACEC Acute Critical Effluent Concentration

ACWA / CWA
Alaska's Clean Water Act / Clean Water Act
ADEC / DEC
APDES
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

CCEC Chronic Critical Effluent Concentration

COC Chain of Custody

DMR Discharge Monitoring Report
DQO Data Quality Objective
DO Dissolved Oxygen
DOW Division of Water
EC Effect Concentration

EPA Environmental Protection Agency EPS Environmental Program Specialist

GPS Global Positioning System IC Inhibition Concentration IDL Instrument Detection Limit

LC Lethal Concentration

LOEC Lowest Observed Effect Concentration

MQO Measurement Quality Objective

MDL Method Detection Limit mS/cm millisiemens/centimeter

mg/L milligrams/liter
μg/L micrograms/liter
ND Non-Detect

NELAC National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Counsel

NOEC
PE Sample
PT Sample
POL
Performance Evaluation Sample
Performance Test Sample
Practical Quantification Limit

QA/QAP Quality Assurance / Quality Assurance Plan

QAPP Quality Assurance Project Plan

QC Quality Control

QMP Quality Management Plan

RL Reporting Limit

RPD Relative Percent Difference
RSD Relative Standard Deviation
SOP Standard Operating Procedure
TMDL Total Maximum Daily Load

TUa Toxic Unit (Acute)
TUc Toxic Unit (Chronic)

VOC Volatile Organic Compounds VSSP Vessel Specific Sampling Plan

WA DOE Washington State Department of Ecology

WET Whole Effluent Toxicity
WQS Water Quality Standards

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A. PROJECT MANAGEMENT ELEMENTS

A.1_TITLE AND APPROVALS:

Title: Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) For Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing

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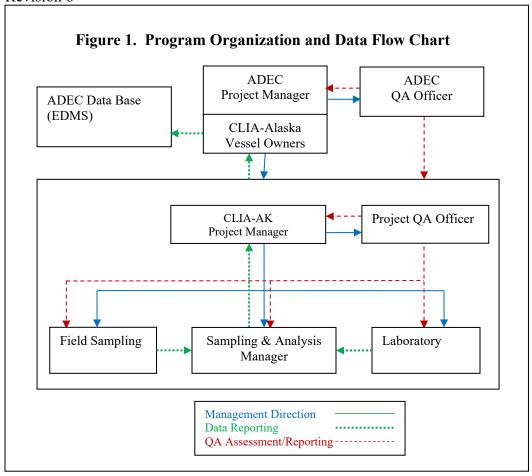
A.2__DISTRIBUTION LIST

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A.3_PROJECT TASK/ORGANIZATION

THOUSE T	TASIK/ONGA	112111011
Position Title	Company / Agency	Responsibilities
Project Manager	CLIA-Alaska	[Refer to the current revision of the Cruise Line International Association Alaska Discharge of Effluents in Alaska Waters by Cruise Vessel Operations Quality Assurance Project Plan for Sampling and Analysis of Treated Sewage and Graywater (referred to as the 'CLIA-Alaska QAPP' for the remainder of this document), 1.4 Project Organization']
Project QA Officer	Independent contractor	[Refer to the CLIA-Alaska QAPP, 1.4 Project Organization']
Sampling Team Leader	Admiralty Environmental	The sampling team leader will notify the ADEC Project Manager at least 36 hours prior to sampling events. [Refer to the CLIA-Alaska QAPP, 1.4 Project Organization']
Field Sampling staff	Admiralty Environmental	Samplers are responsible for sample collection, sample integrity, and custody, field measurements, and accurate field notes.
Laboratory QA Officer/ Laboratory Manager	Nautilus Environmental	Responsible for overall review and approval of analytical work. Responsible for QA/QC of water quality laboratory analyses as specified in the QAPP. Along with Laboratory QA Manager, the Lab QA Officer reviews and verifies the validity of sample data results as specified in the QAPP and appropriate EPA approved analytical methods.
DEC Project Manager	ADEC-DOW	[Refer to the CLIA-Alaska QAPP, 1.4 Project Organization']
DEC QA Officer	ADEC-DOW WQSR/QA	[Refer to the CLIA-Alaska QAPP, 1.4 Project Organization']

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A.4_PROBLEM, BACKGROUND, AND OBJECTIVES

Problem Definition

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), Commercial Passenger Vessel Environmental Compliance (CPVEC) program is responsible for authorizing proposed discharges from cruise ships to marine waters. The ADEC issued *Large Commercial Passenger Vessel Wastewater Discharge General Permit* #2013DB0004 ("2014 ADEC General Permit") on August 29, 2014. This ADEC General Permit states that a discharge may not impart chronic toxicity, expressed as 1.0 chronic toxicity units (TUc), to aquatic organisms at the boundaries of the mixing zone (18 AAC 70.030). Toxicity units will be calculated as TUc = 100/IC25.

Project Background

According to the 2014 ADEC General Permit, the permitees shall conduct acute and chronic toxicity tests on effluent samples once per month in the third year of the Permit (2017) or in the first year of operation thereafter. Samples must be collected in every calendar month when there is a discharge to an authorized mixing zone while at speeds under six knots. The permittee must conduct tests on grab effluent samples with one vertebrate and one invertebrate species. Sample collection must comply with Short-Term Methods for Estimating the Chronic Toxicity of

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Effluents and Receiving Water to West Coast Marine and Estuarine Organisms (EPA/600/R-95/136).

Historical sampling of cruise ship effluents for whole effluent toxicity (WET) testing was undertaken on ships in Alaska between 2002 and 2006. No observable effect concentrations (NOEC) for vertebrates and invertebrates ranged from 12.5% to >50%. See the *Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Commercial Passenger Vessel Environmental Compliance Program 2003 Whole Effluent Toxicity Test Results for Commercial Passenger Vessels in Alaska* for reference. The conclusion published from this study states that "most of tested wastewater effluent is not expected to cause acute toxicity to marine organisms, even at the worst-case scenario dilutions that occur during neap tides."

Project Objective(s)

All large cruise ship vessels operating under the 2014 ADEC General Permit and authorized to discharge at speeds less than 6 knots with a mixing zone will have WET samples collected once in every month a discharge occurs, in the third year of permit coverage (2017), or in the first year of operation thereafter. The sampling and testing of WET samples will follow the guidelines outlined in the 2014 ADEC General Permit and this plan.

The data produced by this project will be used by the department (ADEC) to determine if an effluent has reasonable potential to cause or contribute to exceedance of the whole effluent toxicity limit (18 AAC 70.030).

A.5 PROJECT/TASK DESCRIPTION AND SCHEDULE

Project Description

A sampling schedule for WET sampling events will be agreed by the sampling team leader and CLIA-Alaska Project Manager and provided to the vessel owner and ADEC at least 36 hours prior to the event. Sampling events will be coordinated to occur while the vessel is actively discharging overboard (this is confirmed by ship staff) at the sampling location described in the vessel's approved VSSP.

The WET sample will be collected as four grab sample fractions at the rate of one sample every 30 minutes over at least a 90 minute period.

The sampler will complete tests for temperature, pH, and total residual chlorine for each grab sample in the field. Toxicity tests will be completed from the composited sample in the WET testing laboratory. A sample that fails to provide valid results for the parameters below may not be counted as an acceptable sample. Re-sampling options will be evaluated and determined on a case-by-case basis by the CLIA-Alaska Project Manager and Project QA Officer.

Sampling and field tests will be completed by Admiralty Environmental, LLC. WET testing will be completed by Nautilus Environmental, a Washington State DOE accredited laboratory (Lab ID C552).

Table 1. Parameters to be Measured						
Field Measurements	Laboratory Measurements					
Temperature	Vertebrate toxicity					
pН	Invertebrate toxicity					
Total residual chlorine	Dissolved Oxygen					
	pН					
	Conductivity					
	Salinity					
	Alkalinity					
	Hardness					
	Total Chlorine					
	Total Ammonia					

	Table 2. Project Implementation Schedule						
Product	Measurement/	Sampling Site	Sampling	Time Frame			
	Parameter(s)		Frequency				
QAPP				Annually prior to			
Preparation				March			
Field	pH, Temp, Total	VSSP approved	1/month	April - October			
Sampling	residual chlorine	effluent overboard					
		sampling port					
Lab	Vertebrate and	VSSP approved	1/month	April - October			
Analysis	Invertebrate	effluent overboard					
	toxicity testing	sampling port					
Data	All parameters as	N/A	N/A	Within EPA and			
Analysis	per lab QA/QC			State of Alaska			
	guidelines			recommended			
		77/1	37/4	holding times			
Data	All parameters as	N/A	N/A	Prior to issuing data			
Review	per lab QA/QC guidelines			reports			
Data	All parameters as	N/A	N/A	Due by the 21st day			
Report	per lab QA/QC			of the month			
	guidelines			following the month			
				in which samples			
				were collected.			

A.6_DATA QUALITY OBJECTIES AND CRITERIA FOR MEASUREMENT DATA

Data Quality Objectives (DQOs)

Data Quality Objectives are qualitative and quantitative statements derived from the DQO Process that:

- Clarify the monitoring objectives (i.e., determine water/wastewater pollutant concentrations of interest and how these values compare to regulatory limits of water quality standards).
- Define the appropriate type of data needed. To accomplish the monitoring objectives, the appropriate type of data needed is defined by the respective AWQS. For pollutants, compliance with the AWQS is determined by specific measurement requirements. The measurement system is designed to produce water pollutant concentration data that are of the appropriate quantity and quality to assess compliance.

Not all DOQs apply to all parameters of this project, but all are defined in the section below.

Measurement Quality Objectives (MQOs)

Measurement Quality Objectives (MQOs) are a subset of DQOs. MQOs are derived from the monitoring project's DQOs. MQOs are designed to evaluate and control various phases (sampling, preparation, and analysis) of the measurement process to ensure that total measurement uncertainty is within the range prescribed by the project's DQOs. MQOs define the acceptable quality (data validity) of field and laboratory data for the project. MQOs are defined in terms of the following data quality indicators:

- Detectability
- Precision
- Bias/Accuracy
- Completeness
- Representativeness
- Comparability

Detectability

The ability of the method to reliably measure a pollutant concentration above background. ADEC DOW uses two components to define detectability: method detection limit (MDL) and practical quantification limit (PQL) or reporting limit (RL).

- The MDL is the minimum value which the instrument can discern above background but with no certainty to the accuracy of the measured value. For field measurements, the manufacturer's listed instrument detection limit (IDL) can be used.
- The PQL or RL is the minimum value that can be reported with confidence (usually some multiple of the MDL).

Note: The measurement method of choice should at a minimum have a practical quantification limit or reporting limit three times more sensitive than the respective ADEC WQS and/or permitted pollutant level (for permitted facilities).

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Sample data measured below the MDL is reported as ND or non-detect. Sample data measured \geq MDL but \leq PQL or RL is reported as estimated data. Sample data measured above the PQL or RL is reported as reliable data unless otherwise qualified per the specific sample analysis.

Precision

The degree of agreement among repeated measurements of the same parameter provides information about the consistency of methods. Precision is expressed in terms of the relative percent difference (RPD) between two measurements (A and B).

For field measurements, precision is assessed by measuring replicate (paired) samples at the same locations and as soon as possible to limit temporal variance in sample results. Overall project precision is measured by collecting blind (to the laboratory) field replicate samples. Laboratory precision is determined similarly via analysis of laboratory duplicate samples. For paired and small data sets, project precision is calculated using the following formula:

$$RPD = 100 * \frac{(A-B)}{((A+B)/2)}$$

Where: RPD = relative percent difference

A = primary sample

B = replicate field sample or laboratory duplicate sample

For larger paired precision data sets (e.g., overall project precision) or multiple replicate precision data, use the following formula:

RSD =
$$100*\sigma$$
/mean

$$\sigma = \int \frac{\Sigma d^2}{2k}$$

Where: RSD = relative standard deviation

 σ = standard deviation

k = number of paired replicate samples (A and B)

d = A - B

A = primary sample

B = replicate field sample or laboratory duplicate sample

Bias (Accuracy)

A measure of confidence that describes how close a measurement is to its "true" value. Methods to determine and assess accuracy of field and laboratory measurements include, instrument calibrations, various types of QC checks (e.g., sample split measurements, sample spike recoveries, matrix spike duplicates, continuing calibration verification checks, internal standards, sample blank measurements [field and lab blanks], external standards), performance audit samples (DMRQA, blind Water Supply or Water Pollution PE samples from American

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Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) certified, etc.). Bias/Accuracy is usually assessed using the following formula:

$$Accuracy = \frac{MeasuredValue}{TrueValue} \times 100$$

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Completeness

A measure of the percentage of valid samples collected and analyzed to yield sufficient information to make informed decisions with statistical confidence. As with representativeness, data completeness is determined during project development and specified in the QAPP. Project completeness is determined for each pollutant parameter using the following formula:

$$\frac{T - (I+NC)}{T} \times (100\%) = Completeness$$

Where T = Total number of expected sample measurements.

I = Number of invalid sample measured results.

NC = Number of sample measurements not completed (e.g., spilled sample, etc.).

The objective for completeness for this project is 80%.

Representativeness

Determined during project development. Representativeness assigns what parameters to sample for, where to sample, type of sample (grab, continuous, composite, etc.) and frequency of sample collection. Refer to the CLIA-Alaska QAPP and the individual VSSP for description of representative samples.

Comparability

A measure that shows how data can be compared to other data collected by using standardized methods of sampling and analysis. Refer to the CLIA-Alaska QAPP, the individual VSSPs and the analytical methods outlined in Table 3, below.

	Table 3. Project Measurement Quality Objectives (MQOs)							
Group	Analyte	Method	MDL (μg/L)	PQL (μg/L)	Alaska Aquatic Life	WQS Recreation/ Drinking Water	Precision (RPD)	Accuracy (% Recovered)
Water	Temperature	EPA 170.1	NA	0.1°C	<20°C Migration routes < 15°C Spawning areas < 13°C Rearing areas < 15°C Egg /fry incubation < 13°C	<30°C	±0.2°C	±0.2°C
Quality	рН	EPA 150.1	NA	±0.01 pH units	6.5 - 8.5; not vary by 0.5 from natural condition	6.5 - 8.5	±0.1 pH units	±0.1 pH units
	Total Residual Chlorine	SM 4500- Cl(G)	0.05	0.1	0.0075mgL chronic; 0.013 mg/L acute ^a	NA	<20%	NA
	Vertebrate toxicity (Menidia beryllina)	EPA/821/R- 02/014 & EPA/821/R- 02/012	NA	NA	<1.0 chronic toxic unit at or beyond the mixing zone boundary,	NA	Reference toxicant tests within ±2 standard	Mean Survival >80% and mean dry biomass ≥0.50mg per organism in the control
Toxicity	Invertebrate toxicity (Mytilus sp.)	icity EPA/600/R- NA NA	based on the minimum effluent dilution achieved in the mixing zone.	NA	deviations of last 20 reference toxicant test results.	Mean Survival in controls ≥50% and mean normal shell development must be ≥90%		

Notes

NA = None available

a. Due to MDL limitations on commercially available chlorine meters, an MDL of $0.1 \, \text{mg/L}$ will be accepted for total residual chlorine measurements.

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A.7 SPECIAL TRAINING REQUIREMENTS/CERTIFICATION

Samplers will be trained on the specific sampling requirements contained in this QAPP. Samplers that are qualified for regular compliance sampling under the CLIA-Alaska QAPP will not require additional certifications for WET sample collection. Samples will be collected in accordance with the stipulations provided in the VSSPs, the CLIA-Alaska QAPP, and this QAPP. The WET testing laboratory must be accredited by the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) for the toxicity tests outlined in the 2014 ADEC General Permit. Information on the sampling and laboratory staff competence is outlined in respective laboratory QAPs.

The CLIA-Alaska Project Manager is responsible for ensuring that the contracted lab maintains on file with the ADEC DOW QA Officer a current copy (electronic preferred) of the laboratory's QAP and applicable SOPs.

Refer to the "Special Training Requirements/Certification" section of the CLIA-Alaska QAPP for additional information.

A.8_DOCUMENTS AND RECORDS

Refer to the "Documents and Records" section of the CLIA-Alaska QAPP.

B. DATA GENERATION AND ACQUISITIONB.1_SAMPLING PROCESS DESIGN (Experimental Design)

To satisfy the requirements of the 2014 ADEC General Permit, acute and chronic toxicity testing must be performed once per month in every calendar month when a vessel discharges treated wastewaters (effluent) to an authorized mixing zone while at speeds under six knots. Sampling will occur while the vessel is docked/moored and discharging in-port. The samples will be collected from the effluent sampling port or ports specified in the vessel's approved VSSP.

Each sampling event will include collection of four grab samples spaced at least 30 minutes apart. Every grab sample will have field tests for temperature, total residual chlorine, and pH measured by field sampling staff, and a volume of 5L of sample collected for toxicity testing. The 5L grab samples will be collected in ~2.5L increments in two, 10L certified clean containers in the field.

From this 20L sample, WET testing for survival and growth will be conducted on one vertebrate species (*Menidia beryllina*, or *Atherinops affinis*) and larval development will be tested on one invertebrate species (*Mytilus sp.*, mussel), along with the laboratory parameters outlined in Table 1.

Monitoring Objectives and Data Quality Objectives

The data produced by this project will be used by ADEC to determine if an effluent has reasonable potential to impart chronic toxicity, defined as 1.0 TUc, at the boundary of the authorized mixing zone. Testing completed by ADEC from 2002-2006 on large and small commercial passenger

vessels, concluded that "most wastewater effluent is not expected to cause acute toxicity to marine organisms" (Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Commercial Passenger Vessel Environmental Compliance Program 2003 Whole Effluent Toxicity Test Results from Commercial Passenger Vessels in Alaska). More recent data is deemed necessary by the department. Wastewater samples collected shall be representative of the effluent(s) that the vessel is discharging into marine waters of the state. All toxicity tests will conform to methods described in USEPA Short-Term Methods for Estimating the Chronic Toxicity of Effluent and Receiving Water to West Coast Marine and Estuarine Organisms (EPA/600/R-95/136).

Site-Specific Sample Collection Locations, Parameters, & Sampling Frequency

Wastewater samples collected shall be representative of the effluent that the vessel is discharging into marine waters of the state. To achieve this, sample collection will occur only at the vessel's approved sampling location(s) as specified in their VSSP, and only when the vessel is discharging overboard. Field samplers will confirm with ship staff that the effluent is being discharged overboard before sample collection commences and will rely on ship staff to inform them when the effluent stops discharging overboard. The field sampling staff will record on the field notes the port identification of the sampling point where sampling takes place (e.g., "Overboard Discharge Port F"). If the vessel being sampled utilizes a variable combination of advanced wastewater treatment units depending on the operating conditions of the vessel, the sampler will record the identity of the specific treatment units in operation at the time of sample collection. This information will be provided by ship staff and recorded on the field sampling notes.

The sample port will be allowed to flush prior to sample collection as outlined in the CLIA-Alaska QAPP and vessel's VSSP. Samples will be collected as four individual grab samples, collected at a rate of one grab sample every 30 minutes over at least a 90 minute period. All grab samples will be collected into two 10Lcubitainers (~2.5L collected per container, per grab) and one 125mL field test bottle. Samples will be placed in an ice bath after collection. To minimize the loss of toxicity due to volatilization of toxic constituents, all sample containers will be purged of air space immediately following collection.

The sampler will take a photograph of the sampling port, which will include date, time, and sample point ID.

Temperature, total residual chlorine, and pH will be measured in the field immediately following each grab sample. WET testing for survival and growth will be conducted on one vertebrate species (*Menidia beryllina*, or *Atherinops affinis*) and larval development will be tested on one invertebrate species (*Mytilus sp.*, mussel) in the laboratory.

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Table 4. Sampling Schedule (Parameters, Sample Type, Frequency) Site ID Parameters to be measured Sample Type Sampling Sample Total number								
Site ID	Tarameters to be measured	(I, G, C, etc.)	1 0	1	measurements			
VSSP specified overboard discharge sample point	Temperature, total residual chlorine, and pH	G	One per grab sample (4 grabs per WET sampling event)	TBA. Dependent on ship's sailing calendar	4/ship/month			
VSSP specified overboard discharge sample point I ≡ In Situ M	Acute and chronic toxicity tests with one vertebrate species (Topsmelt or Menidia), and one invertebrate species (Pacific Oyster or Mytilus)	C Grab Sample	1/month C ≡ C	TBA. Dependent on ship's sailing calendar composite Sar	1/month			

B.2_SAMPLING METHOD REQUIREMENTS

Project sampling staff will follow sampling method requirements and procedures as outlined in the CLIA-Alaska QAPP, and the procedures below.

Sample Types

Samples will be listed as "grab" on field data sheets and "composite" on the Chain-of- Custody (COC) form.

Sample Containers and Equipment

Sample containers for WET testing (10L cubitainers) will be supplied by Nautilus Environmental. Field test bottles will be supplied by Admiralty Environmental. All containers will be certified as contaminant-free and will not contain any preservative.

Field test bottles may be re-used for each grab sample within one WET sampling event, so long as the bottle is rinsed three times with effluent sample before filling. The 10Lcubitainers will be rinsed three times with effluent prior to collecting the first grab sample.

All grab samples will be stored on ice in-between and until completion of sample collection. A small temperature blank will accompany the cooler used to transport the samples from the vessel. Temperature will be measured and recorded as outlined in the CLIA-Alaska QAPP.

The sample bottles will be stored at 4 +/-2°C until shipment. A temperature blank is not required to accompany each cooler shipping the 10L WET sample(s). Nautilus Environmental will

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dispense a portion of the sample upon arrival to the laboratory to measure receipt temperature. This will be recorded on the chain of custody.

Field testing equipment for WET sampling events will be calibrated as per instrument specific guidelines and will be maintained as outlined in the "section 2.7.1 Field Measurement Instruments/Equipment and Table2-6" of the CLIA-Alaska QAPP.

Table 5. Preservation and Holding Times for the Analysis of Samples							
Analyte	Matrix	Container	Necessary	Preservation and	Maximum		
			Volume	Filtration	Holding		
					Time		
					ASAP in the		
Temperature	Effluent	P, FP, G	100 mL	None	field		
					<15 min. in		
pН	Effluent	P, FP, G	100 mL	None	the field		
Total Residual					ASAP in the		
Chlorine	Effluent	P, FP, G	100 mL	None	field		
Vertebrate and							
Invertebrate							
toxicity	Effluent	P	20L	None	36 hours		

P = polyethylene, FP = fluoropolymer, G = glass, PA = autoclavable plastic

Sampling Methods

Grab samples will be collected as outlined in the CLIA-Alaska QAPP except for the sample portions collected into cubitainers. These containers will be filled completely or purged of air in between grab samples in order to minimize the loss of toxicity due to volatilization of toxic constituents. All sample bottles will be stored in an ice bath until delivery to the laboratory The time that the last grab sample is collected will be recorded on the COC as the sample collection time, and will be considered the beginning of the sample holding time.

B.3_SAMPLE HANDLING AND CHAIN OF CUSTODY REQUIREMENTS

Sampling Procedures

See Section B.2 of this QAPP – Sampling Method Requirements

Sample Custody Procedures

Sample custody procedures will follow the CLIA-Alaska QAPP Section 2.3.1 Sample Custody" procedures.

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Shipping Requirements

Packaging, marking, labeling, and shipping of samples will comply with all regulations promulgated by the U. S. Department of Transportation in 49 CFR 171-177. Staff should receive the necessary training for shipping samples or consult with the laboratory for shipping instructions.

Samples shall be shipped on gel ice to the WET testing laboratory as soon as possible following collection. All sample shipment procedures will be conducted in accordance with the CLIA-Alaska QAPP. A chain of custody form will accompany samples at all times, including during shipment of sample to subcontract laboratories. All samples must be below 6°C upon receipt. The lab shall begin the toxicity testing as soon as possible but no later than 36 hours after the sampling time. The lab shall store samples at 4°C in the dark from receipt until completion of the test.

B.4 ANALYTICAL METHODS AND REQUIREMENTS

Sampling personnel will perform testing of temperature, residual chlorine, and pH as field tests at the time of sampling as part of the general guidelines for the 2014 ADEC General Permit, and these tests will conform to the quality assurance guidelines in the CLIA-Alaska QAPP as required by ADEC. All WET laboratory analyses will be performed by a Washington State DOE accredited laboratory and will conform to methods described in USEPA Short-Term Methods for Estimating the Chronic Toxicity of Effluents and Receiving Water to West Coast Marine and Estuarine Organisms (EPA/600/R-95/136). All laboratory QAPs and SOPs are available upon request. The WET laboratory must conduct tests on the effluent samples with one vertebrate and one invertebrate species, as follows:

Vertebrate (survival and growth): *Menidia beryllina* (inland silverside). In the event that inland silverside is not available, *Atherinops affinis* (topsmelt) may be used as a substitute.

Invertebrate: For larval development tests, the laboratory must conduct tests with a bivalve species, *Mytilus* sp. (mussel) or *Crassostrea gigas*, (Pacific oyster).

A series of at least five dilutions and a control must be tested. Test series should be designed to bracket toxicity endpoints from previous tests to provide meaningful toxicity information during the next permit reissuance. At a minimum, the dilution series must include the following effluent concentrations: (12.5%, 6.25%, 3.12%, 1.56%, and 0.78%). Tests at higher concentrations (25% and 50%) may be warranted to adequately bracket toxicity endpoints from previous test results. All tests will be analyzed from the two 10L sample containers, and any renewal water used in the test will be derived from this single sample. The invertebrate test will be run at 15°C. The vertebrate tests shall be run at 25°C (if inland silverside is used). Reference the Project's MQO table (section A6) of this QAPP for list of parameters of concern, approved analytical methods, method-specific detection and reporting limits, accuracy and precision values applicable to this project.

The whole effluent toxicity tests shall be run on an unmodified sample of final effluent unless chlorine is present. If chlorine is present, the final effluent samples for whole effluent toxicity

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testing will be chemically dechlorinated with sodium thiosulfate just prior to test initiation. No more sodium thiosulfate will be added than is necessary to neutralize the chlorine. Calculations to determine the appropriate amount of sodium thiosulfate shall be included in the test report.

B.5 QUALITY CONTROL REQUIREMENTS

Quality Control (QC) is the overall system of technical activities that measures the attributes and performance of a process, item, or service against defined standards to verify that they meet the monitoring project's data quality objectives.

Data from the WET testing project will follow the data quality objectives, laboratory quality assurance guidelines, method-specific quality control limits, and general guidelines outlined in the CLIA-Alaska QAPP, laboratory specific QAPs and SOPs and as outlined below.

Field Quality Control Measures

Refer to Table 6, below for fieldQC measures.

Field documentation for each WET sampling event will include:

- Date of sampling
- Time of each grab sample (final grab sample will be recorded as sample time on the COC)
- Vessel ID
- Discharge port location (VSSP specified port ID)
- Discharge flow rate and type of discharge (GW/BW/mixed)
- Name and title of person providing discharge flow information
- Laboratory ID
- Ship's location
- Sampler initials
- Photograph
- Field instrument calibration information
- Field test results for each grab sample (temperature, pH, and total residual chlorine)

Laboratory Quality Control Measures

Contracted laboratories will provide analytical results after verification and validation by the laboratory QA Officer/Laboratory QA Manager. The laboratory must provide all relevant QC information with its summary of data results so that the CLIA-Alaska Project Manager and Project QA Officer can perform field data verification and validation and review the laboratory reports. The CLIA-Alaska Project Manager reviews these data to ensure that the required QC measurement criteria have been met. If a QC concern is identified in the review process, the CLIA-Alaska Project Manager and Project QA Officer will seek additional information from the contracted laboratory to resolve the issue and pursue appropriate corrective action.

As outlined in the 2014 ADEC General Permit, if organisms are not cultured by the WET testing laboratory for toxicity testing, concurrent testing with reference toxicants must be conducted,

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unless the test organism supplier provides control chart data from at least the previous five months of reference toxicant testing. Where organisms are cultured by the testing laboratory, monthly reference toxicant testing is sufficient.

If either of the reference toxicant tests or the effluent tests does not meet all test acceptability criteria as specified in the test methods manual, then the report shall note this.

Control and dilution water should be receiving water, or salinity adjusted lab water. If the dilution water used is different from the culture water, a second control using culture water must also be used.

Table 6. Field/Laboratory Quality Control Samples						
	Frequency					
Field/Lab Quality Control Sample	Measurement Parameter	Frequency of Occurrence	Total # of QC Type Samples	QC Acceptance Criteria Limits		
Calibration Verification Check Standard	Total residual chlorine	Weekly	1	Accuracy as defined by individual check standards		
Calibration Verification Check Standard	рН	Each day of use	1	+/- 0.1 S.U.		
Laboratory Control, Inland Silverside	Survival and Growth	Concurrently	1	Mean survival ≥80% and mean dry weight ≥0.50mg per organism		
Laboratory Control, Mussel	Development	Concurrently	1	Mean survival ≥50% and mean normal shell development must be ≥90%		
Laboratory Control Water (Vertebrate and Invertebrate toxicity)	Salinity	Daily		30 ±2 ppt		
Reference Toxicant, Inland Silverside	Survival and Growth	Monthly or concurrently	1	±2 standard deviations of last 20 reference toxicant test results		
Reference Toxicant, Mussel	Development	Monthly or concurrently	1	±2 standard deviations of last 20 reference toxicant test results		

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B.6_INSTRUMENT TESTING, INSPECTION, AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

Instrument/Equipment Testing, Inspection, and Maintenance Requirements will be followed as outlined in the CLIA-Alaska QAPP (see Table 2-6.), and as described below.

Prior to a sampling event, all sampling instruments and equipment are to be tested and inspected in accordance with the manufacturers' specifications. All equipment standards (thermometers, barometers, etc.) are calibrated appropriately and within stated certification periods prior to use.

Monitoring staff should document that required acceptance testing, inspection and maintenance have been performed. Records of this documentation should be kept with the instrument/equipment kit in bound logbooks or data sheets.

Contracted and sub-contracted laboratories will follow the testing, inspection and maintenance procedures required by EPA Clean Water Act approved methods and as stated in the respective laboratory's QAP and SOPs.

B.7 INSTRUMENT CALIBRATION AND FREQUENCY

Field instruments must be calibrated where appropriate prior to using the instruments. For example, pH meters must be calibrated according to the manufacturer's specifications using pH buffers at 4.0, 7.0 (mid-range) and 10.0 that are within their certification period (expiration date has not lapsed). If equipment and/or kits require calibration immediately prior to the sampling event, the calibration date will be recorded in the operator's field logbook or field data sheets. When field instruments require only periodic calibration, the record of this calibration should be kept with the instrument. The CLIA-Alaska Project Manager will delegate a field project team member or the sampling team leader to ensure that instruments are calibrated correctly, and appropriate documents recorded and retained.

Contracted and sub-contracted laboratories will follow the calibration procedures found in their QAP and SOPs. Specific calibration procedures for regulated pollutants will agree with the respective EPA approved CWA method of analysis. Field and/or laboratory calibration records will be made available to ADEC upon request.

B.8_ INSPECTION/ACCEPTANCE OF SUPPLIES AND CONSUMABLES

All reagents, calibration standards, and kit chemicals are to be inspected to ensure that expiration dates are not exceeded prior to use in the monitoring project. This is done by the field sampling staff prior to the sampling event.

All sample collection devices and equipment will be appropriately cleaned prior to use in the monitoring project. Sample containers are purchased/provided contaminant free, but equipment (such as total chlorine reagent vials) will be cleaned and inspected by field sampling staff prior to each sampling event.

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No standard solutions, buffers, or other chemical additives shall be used if the expiration date has passed. The sampling team leader or designee is responsible to maintain appropriate records (e.g., logbook entries, checklists, etc.), to verify inspection/acceptance of supplies and consumables, and restock these supplies and consumables when necessary.

Contracted and sub-contracted laboratories will follow procedures in their laboratory's QAP and SOPs for inspection/acceptance of supplies and consumables.

B.9_DATA ACQUISITION REQUIREMENTS (NON-DIRECT MEASUREMENTS)

Data will be acquired by the sampling team directly from the vessel for:

- Vessel location at the time of sampling.
- Discharge sample type (graywater, blackwater/mixed).
- Discharge flow rate.

The data will be recorded on field sampling documents as reported by shipboard staff, in the vessel's Discharge Log, and/or through direct observation by the sampling team.

B.10 DATA MANAGEMENT

The success of a monitoring project relies on data and their interpretation. It is critical that data be available to users and that these data are:

- Of known quality,
- Reliable,
- Aggregated in a manner consistent with their prime use, and
- Accessible to a variety of users.

Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) of data management begins with the raw data and ends with a defensible report, preferably through the computerized messaging of raw data.

Data management encompasses and traces the path of the data from their generation to their final use or storage (e.g., from field measurements and sample collection/recording through transfer of data to computers [laptops, data acquisition systems, etc.], laboratory analysis, data validation/verification, QA assessments and reporting of data of known quality to the ADEC DOW). Data management also includes/discusses the control mechanism for detecting and correcting errors.

Various people are responsible for separate or discrete parts of the data management process:

• The sampling team is responsible for field measurements/sample collection and recording of data and subsequent shipment of samples to laboratories for analyses. The team assembles

data files, which include raw data, calibration information and certificates, QC checks (routine checks), data flags, sampler comments and meta data where available. These files are assembled and forwarded for secondary data review by the sampling team leader.

- Laboratories are responsible for complying with the data quality objectives specified in the QAPP and as specified in the laboratory QAP and method specific SOPs. Validated sample laboratory data results with respective analytical method QA/QC results and acceptance criteria are reported to the sampling manager and the CLIA-Alaska Project Manager. Analytical data is submitted in PDF format.
- Secondary reviewers (sampling team leader/project supervisor) are responsible for QA/QC review, verification and validation of field and laboratory data and data reformatting as appropriate for reporting validated data to the CLIA-Alaska Project Manager.
- The project QA Officer is responsible for performing independent reviews of data to ensure the monitoring projects data quality objectives are being met. Findings and recommended corrective actions (as appropriate) are reported directly to project management.
- The CLIA-Alaska Project Manager is responsible for final data certification

EDMS (ADEC's electronic data management system) Field Data Field Staff Management Responsibilities Data packages submitted into Maintain all logbooks, field data sheets, QC forms. Data is collected and EDMS by individual cruise line Conducts preventative maintenance, calibrations recorded on field data operators, or authorized users. and QC checks. Ensures all test equipment is forms. meeting QA/QC criteria, and all SOPs are followed. **ADEC Division of** Water Project Manager/QA Officer **Project QA Officer** Reviews data packages Assess attainment of overall project required DQOs by for acceptability. evaluating data against project QAPP objectives. Verify and validate flags. Produce audit reports detailing findings and recommendations. **Sampling Team** Leader / or their CLIA-Alaska designee **Laboratory Supervisor Project Manager** 100% check of all Data review of laboratory data (lab results, Review Data. Report data, field data forms, QC data verification/validation and sample data package & initial data flags appropriate use of data flags). per QAPP Distribution of laboratory data to Project requirements. Manager. **Analytical Laboratory** 100% check of all field sample request data sheets, sample integrity checks (preservation, temperature and **Data Management Legend** holding times met). Samples analyzed according to Data reporting QAPP approved methods. Sample analysis and **QA** Assessments relevant QC results reported. Data not okay or needs more info

Figure 2: Data Management Flow Chart

B.11_DATA STORAGE AND RETENTION

Data management files will be stored on a secure computer or on a removable hard drive that can be secured. Laboratory records must be retained by the contract laboratory for a minimum of five years. Project records must be retained by the lead organization conducting the monitoring operations for a minimum of five years, preferably longer. Site location and retention period for stored data is specified in the CLIA-Alaska QAPP (see "Section 2.10 Data Management").

C. ASSESSMENTS

C.1_ASSESSMENTS AND RESPONSE ACTIONS

Assessments are independent (of management) evaluations of the monitoring project that are performed by the Project's QA Officer or designee. Assessments may include any of the following: on-site field surveillance, on-site laboratory audits, performance evaluation samples, DMRQA samples, data quality audits, and data reviews. The number and types of assessments are dependent upon the monitoring project's intended data uses and applicability.

Monitoring Data Assessment

QA assessments that will be undertaken for this WET testing project include:

Field and laboratory analysis assessment (each pollutant)

• Third party performance evaluation samples (PE samples also called performance test (PT) samples) for the wastewater methods outlined in this QAPP must be completed annually by the analyzing laboratory(s). Participation is at a frequency of one per year from a NELAC certified vendor if the analyte/organism is available. PT results must be made available to both the ADEC Water Quality Assurance Officer and the Project QA Officer.

On-Site Assessments

- ADEC and/or the QA Officer may perform a field sampling audit at any time during the season in order to evaluate the performance of the samplers. Audits will concentrate on adherence to the project's QAPP. Audit reports will be made available to all Project Managers within 14 days of the audit. These reports will include corrective actions, if necessary.
- Laboratories are subject to periodic and extensive audits by regulatory agency personnel as part of their certification(s). Reports of these audits will be made available upon request. The QA Officer and ADEC Project Manager may review any recent and pertinent technical systems audit reports of the laboratories involved in this project.

Project Data Assessments

• Audits of Monitoring Data for reproducibility of results from recalculation/reconstruction of field/lab unprocessed data will occur at a rate of one per monitoring season.

• Calculation of monitoring project's overall achieved precision, accuracy and data completeness compared to QAPP defined precision, accuracy and data completeness goals will be completed by the QA Officer at the end of each monitoring season.

Table 7. Project Assessments						
Assessment Type	Measurement	Measurement Parameters		Acceptance Criteria		
Assessment Type	Analyte	Method		Limits		
On-site Field Audit/Inspection	pH, Temperature, Chlorine	See 40 CFR 136.3	1/monitoring season/if determined necessary by QA Officer	Site technicians in compliance with QAPP sampling protocols, sample sites meet sample design criteria		
3 rd Party Blind PT/DMR QA Sample (Lab)	All	All	Annually	Analytes within PT study limits		
On-site Technical System Lab audit	All	All	If determined necessary by ADEC			
Independent Data Review Audit	All	All	One per season			
Project Precision, Accuracy and Data Completeness	All	All	end of project (at least 1/year)	Defined in Section A6 and Table 3		

C.2 REVISIONS TO QAPP

The QAPP will be reviewed and revised as needed by the CLIA-Alaska Project Manager and the project QA Officer. Minor revisions may be made without formal comment. Such minor revisions may include changes to identified project staff (but not lead project staff: QA project officer, Project Manager, sampling manager, contracted laboratories), QAPP distribution list and/or minor editorial changes.

Revisions to the QAPP that affect stated monitoring DQOs, MQOs, method specific data validation and/or inclusion of new monitoring methods must be reviewed and pre-approved by ADEC DOW QA Officer/ADEC Project Management before being implemented.

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C.3 QA REPORTS TO MANAGEMENT

The distributions of project QA assessments from Table 7 are outlined in Table 8, below.

Table 8. QA Reports to Management						
QA Report Type	Contents	Presentation Method	Report Issued by	Reporting Fr As Required	requency Year	
On-site Field Inspection Audit Report	Description of audit results, audit methods and standards/equipment used and any recommendations	Written text and tables, charts, graphs displaying results	Project QA Officer/auditor	•		
3 rd Party PT (DMRQA, etc.) Audit Report	Description of audit results, methods of analysis and any recommendations	Written text and charts, graphs displaying results	Project QA Officer/auditor	~	~	
Corrective Action Recommendation	Description of problem(s), recommended corrective action(s), time frame for feedback on resolution of problem(s)	Written text/table	QA Officer/auditor	~		
Response to Corrective Action Report	Description of problem(s), description/date corrective action(s) implemented and/or scheduled to be implemented	Written text/table	CLIA-Alaska Project Manager overseeing sampling and analysis	•		
Data Quality Audit	Independent review and recalculation of sample collection/analysis (including calculations, etc.) to determine sample result. Summary of data audit results; findings; and any recommendations	Written text and charts, graphs displaying results	Project QA Officer	•	~	
Quality Assurance Report to Management	Project executive summary: data completeness, precision, bias/accuracy	Written text and charts, graphs displaying results	Project QA Officer	•	~	

D. DATA VALIDATION AND USABILITY

D.1_DATA REVIEW, VERIFICATIONAND VALIDATION REQUIREMENTS

The purpose of this section is to define the criteria used to review and validate monitoring datathat is, accept, reject or qualify data in an objective and consistent manner. Data review, verification and validation are ways to decide the degree to which each data item has met its quality specifications (i.e., analyte specific QC criteria and overall project measurement quality objectives).

Data validation

Data validation means determining if data satisfy QAPP-defined user requirements, that is, that the data refer back to the overall data quality objectives. Data validation is an analyte and sample-specific process that extends the evaluation of data beyond method, procedural, or

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contractual compliance (i.e., data verification) to determine the analytical quality of a specific data set to ensure that the reported data values meet the quality goals of the environmental data operations (analyte and method specific data validation criteria).

Upon receipt of completed data packages (at a rate of 1/monitoring season) from this project, the QAO will review data and field notes to verify that this QAPP was followed. Items reviewed will include:

- Comparison of dated VSSPs with the QAPP to ensure that the correct samples were taken.
- Comparison of dated sampling plans with field notes and COC forms to ensure that planned samples were collected.
- Review of field notes and data to ensure that information specified in the QAPP has been recorded.
- Review of laboratory data packages.

Data Verification

Data verification is the process of evaluating the completeness, correctness, and conformance/compliance of a specific data set against the method, procedural, or contractual requirements.

Data Review

Data review is the process that evaluates the overall data package to ensure procedures were followed and that reported data is reasonable and consistent with associated QA/QC results. The Project QA Officer will review one completed data package per monitoring season. Review will include verification of correct sample collection, analysis and reporting; summary of data audit results; findings; and any recommendations. The data review must be submitted before July 1 of each year in order to correct any system problems as early in the season as possible. Remaining data review(s) may be spaced evenly throughout the season.

D.2_VERIFICATION AND VALIDATION METHODS

Validation Methods

All data generated shall be validated in accordance with the QA/QC requirements specified in the methods and the technical specification outlined in this QAPP. Raw sample data will be maintained by the agency or company responsible for the monitoring project. Raw laboratory data shall be maintained by the laboratory. The laboratory may archive the analytical data into their laboratory data management system.

Field documentation will include a sampling checklist that will be used to verify field sampling and analysis requirements have been met. See Appendix A.

The summary of all laboratories' analytical results will be reported to the CLIA-Alaska Project Manager. Data validation will be performed by the laboratory for all analyses prior to the release of data. All laboratory data will be validated according to the laboratory's QAP and SOPs and this QAPP. The rationale for any anomalies in the QA/QC of the laboratory data will be provided

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to the CLIA-Alaska Project Manager with the data results. Completed COC or transmission forms (if required) will be sent back from the laboratory to the CLIA-Alaska Project Manager.

Data will be qualified, as necessary. Unacceptable data (i.e., data that do not meet the QA measurement criteria of precision, accuracy, representativeness, comparability and completeness) will not be used or if used, the problems with the data will be clearly defined, flagged appropriately and data use clearly delimited and justified. Any actions taken to correct QA/QC problems in sampling, sample handling, and analysis must be noted. Under the direction of the CLIA-Alaska Project Manager, project staff will document any QA/QC problems and the respective QA/QC corrective actions taken.

The CLIA-Alaska Project Manager/monitoring supervisor or designee is responsible for reviewing field log notebooks and field data sheets for accuracy and completeness as soon as possible following each sample collection activity. Sample results provided by the laboratory will be verified and validated by the laboratory QA Officer or their designee prior to issuing the laboratory report. Laboratory results will include the results of all QA/QC results as part of the sample data report. The laboratory report will become part of the permanent file for the monitoring project. The CLIA-Alaska Project Manager or designee will compare the sample information in the field log notebooks and/or data field sheets with the laboratory analytical results to ensure that no transcription errors have occurred and to verify project QA/QC criteria have been met.

Analyte specific precision, accuracy and data completeness results greater than project MQOs will be noted by the CLIA-Alaska Project Manager and justified in the final data report. The CLIA-Alaska Project Manager, along with the Project QA Officer, if necessary, will decide if any QA/QC corrective action is necessary if the precision, accuracy (bias) and data completeness values exceed the project's MQO goals.

Verification Methods

The primary goal of verification is to document that applicable method, procedural and contractual requirements were met in field sampling and laboratory analysis. Verification checks to see if the data is complete, if sampling and analysis matched QAPP requirements, and if Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were followed. Verification of data is the responsibility of the Project QA Officer.

D.3_RECONCILIATION WITH USER REQUIREMENTS

The CLIA-Alaska Project Manager and/or the Project QA Officer will review and validate data against the project's defined MQOs prior to final reporting stages. If there are any problems with quality sampling and analysis, these issues will be addressed immediately, and methods will be modified to ensure that data quality objectives are met. Modifications to monitoring that affect the quality of reported data will require notification to and pre-approval by ADEC as well as subsequent edits to the approved QAPP.

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Only data that have been validated, verified and qualified, as necessary, shall be submitted to ADEC.

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References

- ADEC. 2014. Large Commercial Passenger Vessel Wastewater Discharge General Permit (General Permit# 2013DB0004). Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. Division of Water. Commercial Passenger Vessel Environmental Compliance Program. 410 Willoughby Ave. PO Box 111800. Juneau, Alaska 99811-1800.
- ADEC CPVEC. 2003 Whole Effluent Toxicity Test Results for Commercial Passenger Vessels in Alaska. Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. Commercial Passenger Vessel Environmental Compliance Program.
- CLIA-AK. 2025. Quality Assurance Project Plan for Sampling and Analysis of Treated Sewage and Graywater from Commercial Passenger Vessels. January 2025.
- USEPA. 1995. Short-Term Methods for Estimating the Chronic Toxicity of Effluents and Receiving Waters to West Coast Marine and Estuarine Organisms. EPA/600/R-95/136.

APPENDIX A. Cruise Ship WET Testing Sampling Checklist

Cruise Ship WET Sampling Checklist
Vessel Name: Sampler Name: Date: Sampling Event ID #:
I. Notification□ ADEC project manager notified 36 hours prior to the sampling event
II. Type of Sampling □ WET sampling, 1/month
III. Sampling Notes (to include:)
☐ Vessel name
☐ Names of sampling personnel
☐ Names of shipboard assistants
☐ Signature, or initials, and date by the vessel crew indicating that the sample port is correct (VSSP)
☐ Sample ID clearly stating where the sample was taken (<u>VSSP specified collection point</u>)
☐ Sample ports within 50 feet of the point of overboard discharge
☐ Sample date and times recorded on COC
☐ Field measurements: pH, chlorine residual, and temp recorded on field notes
☐ Field instrument calibration information
☐ Records collected on discharge flow rates
☐ Copy of the Discharge record for the sampled discharge included
☐ Nature of sample recorded (composite or grab)
☐ Waste type recorded (blackwater, graywater, or mixed)
☐ If deviations from VSSP and/or QA/QCP noted, reported date and time to ADEC
☐ Ship's location (e.g. Juneau, AK)
☐ Chain of custody properly completed
☐ Photograph of sample collection point taken during event, incl. date, time, sample ID
☐ Samples delivered to laboratory within holding times for analyses

2025 CLIA-AK WET Testing Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP)

Final Audit Report 2025-03-21

Created: 2025-03-18

By: Hope ONeill (honeill@admiraltyenv.com)

Status: Signed

Transaction ID: CBJCHBCAABAA8FkkoEFO06sKadvM4cLENdg4xJ-Hx3YZ

"2025 CLIA-AK WET Testing Quality Assurance Project Plan (Q APP)" History

- Document created by Hope ONeill (honeill@admiraltyenv.com) 2025-03-18 10:27:17 PM GMT
- Document emailed to Lalanya Downs (Idowns@cruising.org) for signature 2025-03-18 10:27:24 PM GMT
- Document emailed to David Wetzel (dwetzel@admiraltyenv.com) for signature 2025-03-18 10:27:24 PM GMT
- Document emailed to Lisa Hoferkamp (lk2699447@gmail.com) for signature 2025-03-18 10:27:24 PM GMT
- Document emailed to Ben Eisenstein (ben.eisenstein@alaska.gov) for signature 2025-03-18 10:27:24 PM GMT
- Document emailed to Terri Lomax (terri.lomax@alaska.gov) for signature 2025-03-18 10:27:24 PM GMT
- Email viewed by Terri Lomax (terri.lomax@alaska.gov) 2025-03-18 10:28:07 PM GMT
- Document e-signed by Terri Lomax (terri.lomax@alaska.gov)

 Signature Date: 2025-03-18 10:29:10 PM GMT Time Source: server- Signature captured from device with phone number XXXXXXX8949
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 2025-03-18 10:31:12 PM GMT
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- Email viewed by David Wetzel (dwetzel@admiraltyenv.com) 2025-03-19 0:31:23 AM GMT
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- Email viewed by Lalanya Downs (Idowns@cruising.org) 2025-03-21 11:35:51 PM GMT
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 Signature Date: 2025-03-21 11:36:31 PM GMT Time Source: server
- Agreement completed.
 2025-03-21 11:36:31 PM GMT